

## SPAIN'S PROCLAMATION

Notifies the World That War Exists.

## RESERVES ALL HER RIGHTS

Promises Not to Immediately Resort to Privatizing—Will Search Neutral Vessels on the High Seas and Treat American Privateers as Pirates—Violent Abuse of America.

Madrid, April 24.—The Gazette Official today prints a proclamation by the government declaring that a state of war exists between Spain and the United States, and announcing that the treaty of 1763 and the protocol of 1877 are null and void.

The second clause declares that from the date of the proclamation five days will be allowed American vessels in Spanish ports to depart for other waters. The third clause declares that although Spain is not bound by the declaration of Paris she proposes to recognize the following rules of maritime rights:

First—A neutral flag will protect all merchandise that is not contraband of war. Second—The goods of a neutral power, providing they are not contraband, will be respected even if carried under the enemy's flag. Third—A blockading force will be maintained in Spanish ports to prevent the entry of Spanish vessels.

The fourth, the most important clause, says that Spain maintains the right to grant letters of marque, which right she reserves to herself in her note of May 16, 1937, contained in her reply to France. The fifth section says that for the purpose of capturing ships belonging to the enemy and confiscating goods and contraband of war, Spain will exercise the right of searching vessels on the high seas. The proclamation then goes on to say that the government reserves the right of action relative to the question of contraband of war.

It concludes by stating that Spain will not issue letters of marque and will treat as pirates privateers holding letters of marque from the United States. Instead of privatizing Spain will utilize vessels of her mercantile fleet as auxiliary warships.

A cabinet meeting was held today at which the queen regent presided. All the ministers were present. It was decided to issue instructions to many merchant vessels to join the navy as armed auxiliaries. Officers, gunners and marines will be allotted to these vessels, which will have all the rights of warships. It is understood that these auxiliaries will be considered privateers, but will serve under better conditions and have more rights. The question of privatizing was discussed by the cabinet today.

## The Proclamation.

The preamble of the proclamation begins thus: "Diplomatic relations are broken off between Spain and the United States. A state of war being begun between the two countries, numerous questions of international law arise which must be precisely defined, chiefly because of injustices and provocations come from our adversaries, and because of it they, by their detestable conduct, have caused this grave conflict. We have observed with the strictest fidelity the principles of international law and have shown the most scrupulous respect for morality and right."

"The government is of the opinion that the fact of not having adhered to the declaration of Paris of 1856 does not excuse it from the duty of respecting the principles therein enunciated. The principle which Spain unequivocally refused to admit at that time was the abolition of privatizing, and the government now considers it indispensable to make the most absolute reserves on this point in order to maintain its liberty of action and our unshaken right to have recourse to privatizing when it is considered expedient, first of all by organizing immediately a force of cruisers auxiliary to the navy which will be composed of vessels of our own mercantile marine, to co-operate with equal distinction in the work of the navy."

## No Longer Optimistic.

The optimism of Saturday following the reported capture of the *Paris* and *Shenandoah* and several unnamed American vessels a few hundred miles from Cadix has already given place to disappointment. The public was surprised to learn that an American fleet was within ten miles of Havana, and then within five miles. The authorities have called that they had put the town on the alert by firing three signal guns from Morro Castle. The Spaniards, however, were not involved in the capture of the *Paris* and *Shenandoah*. There is now much anxiety regarding the safety of the *Montezuma*, *Alfonso XIII* and *Alfonso XIII*.

After Admiral Bermejo, minister of marine, had conferred with the queen regent, the latter summoned twenty-seven admirals, with whom the minister consulted. Important decisions were arrived at, and these were immediately telegraphed to the ports and the fleet. Public opinion emphatically approves the government's attitude regarding the capture of the *Paris* and *Shenandoah*, and the right of search. The preamble of the proclamation says textually that the government expressly refused to admit the abolition of privatizing.

## The Balance Sheet of the Bank of Spain

The balance sheet of the Bank of Spain has been published in the Madrid Gazette. It shows the results of the increased engagements of the treasury with the bank, and the result of the run on the bank in both Madrid and the provinces for silver in exchange for notes. The cash in hand, according to the report, has declined over \$3,000,000 pesos.

Capt. Gen. Blanco cables that the American fleet disappeared in a few hours and then reappeared in sight of Havana.

## The Pope's Position.

Rome, April 24.—Cardinal Rampolla, papal secretary of state, declared today that the Pope had resolved to maintain a position of absolute neutrality during the war, and to permit no prayers except for peace.

## Italy's Policy to the Powers.

Rome, April 24.—The Italia declares semi-officially that Italy has notified the powers that coal cannot be made contraband of war.

## FRANCE IS FRIENDLY.

She Hopes to See American Triumph Over Spain.

There has been much talk of late about the friendliness of France for Spain. It has been said at times that in case of a conflict between America and the Spanish the French would be found siding the latter country even to the extent of attack.

This erroneous idea has been set at rest in a cable dispatch from Henri Rochefort to Senator Morgan. The distinguished Frenchman assures Senator Morgan that there is no such thing as the slightest statement that his country bears ill will to America, but on the contrary the French people are heartily in sympathy with this country against Spain, and hope and believe that we will gain a speedy and merited triumph.

## JUDGE DAY THE MAN.

Authoritative Announcement That He Is to Succeed Mr. Sherman.

The resignation of Secretary John Sherman of the State Department, is in the hands of the President. This statement can be made upon the highest authority, and it further can be said authoritatively that Judge William R. Day, the present First Assistant Secretary of State, will succeed him.

Judge Day left last night for his home in Canton, Ohio, to straighten out his law practice preparatory to entering upon the duties which will devolve upon him in assuming the office which he practically has held ever since the present difficulties with Spain arose. He will, while in Canton, complete arrangements with his law partner to carry on his extensive practice there without his assistance, and the judge also has agreed to forego the appointment to a Federal judgeship, which it is well known, was to be his as soon as the war cloud had passed over and ended in the triumph of the American arms.

When seen at his residence last night, he talked freely and said that he left the Cabinet freely and retired to private life cheerfully, hoping that he might spend the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of such pleasures as might be his portion without the embarrassments and cares of public life.

Mr. Sherman said he wished to make the statement with all the emphasis possible that there was no ill-feeling between himself and the President. Mr. McKinley was a man whom he had known and esteemed for many years and their relations today were as cordial as any two men could be in leaving the President's official family and returning to a life which he has not known for many long years.

Mr. Sherman has been a commanding figure in the history of this country for forty-two years. He was elected to Congress in 1855, and during the civil war was advanced to the Senate. For the forty-two years he has been a member of public life or out of the public eye. As a member of the House of Representatives, as a United States senator, as Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of President Hayes, again as United States senator, as a Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States, and finally as Secretary of State, he has seen every phase of American life.

He deserves the rest and quiet that will come to him after he has laid down the cares of official life which, to a man active in his line, has not been inconsiderable. He realizes that he is no longer young, and as he said last night resigning the premiership to make way for one who is younger and sturdier and who can more firmly hold up the hands of the President in this trying hour.

Mr. Sherman has no fixed plans for the future. He will go to his old home in Canton, Ohio, and he will probably spend his winters in Washington and his summers where his family may take him, but to Mr. Sherman's mind there is no place quite so agreeable to him as his old home in the Ohio city, which has so many years been his place of abode.

## WILL REMAIN IN THE CABINET.

Secretary Alger Denies That He Is About to Resign.

Secretary Alger positively denies the report that he contemplates resigning. In proof of this assertion he stated that his business manager had been in Washington for several days, summoned here for the express purpose of taking detailed instructions as to the management of the Secretary's private affairs. He added that he had thus disposed of his private business as to enable him to devote his entire time and attention to the Government's interest.

Gen. Alger in conclusion that he was determined to serve in his present position until the end of the present war. Notwithstanding this denial, it is in the opinion of many that there will be a change in the head of the War Department within thirty days. It is said that Secretary Alger's health is rapidly improving, and that he will not be able to stand it much longer.

Another report is said to come from official sources is that the War Department is far in arrears in preparations for war compared with the means that have been provided for the conduct of the war by the War Department. It is said that there has been vacillation in the department, where the emergency required prompt decision.

Another report is that Secretary Alger is jealous of Gen. Miles; that he thinks the President and Congressional committee have been too lenient to Gen. Miles and his suggestions to the Secretary of War.

The indications point to the selection of Judge Day as the successor of Secretary Sherman. It was asserted last night by persons in position to know that there was no doubt of the appointment of Day.

## INTERESTING EXPERIENCE

Of an Iowa Lady Who Was Cured of Dyspepsia After Suffering for Twenty-Five Years.

Mrs. Sarah A. Skeels, an estimable lady residing at Lynville, Jasper County, Iowa, was for twenty-five years a sufferer from dyspepsia, and in complete restoration of health is so remarkable that we present the facts in the case for the benefit of our readers, many of whom have done much suffering in the same manner, and will, therefore, be interested in learning how all stomach troubles may be avoided and cured. Mrs. Skeels says: "I was afflicted with dyspepsia for twenty-five years, and I received such great and unexpected benefit that I wish to express my sincere gratitude. In fact, I have been six months since I took the medicine and I have not had one particle of distress or difficulty since. And all this in the face of the fact that the best doctors I consulted told me my case was incurable, as I had suffered for twenty-five years. I want half a dozen packages to give to my friends, and I am sure they are very anxious to try this remedy. Truly yours, Mrs. Sarah A. Skeels."

## A TERRIFIC CYCLONE.

Citizens Killed and Wounded and Much Damage Done.

New Orleans, April 24.—A terrible cyclone swept over J. W. Crane's plantation on Red River, a few miles below here, about 4 o'clock last evening. Thirty-two houses were blown down, including two dwellings and Mr. Crane's store. Two negroes were killed and several others wounded. Mrs. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. Walker and several other white people were wounded. The driver of an ox team and part of the wagon were blown away and have not been found. Letters, papers and remnants of goods from Mr. Crane's store were picked up three miles away. One man saw a wagon, a body and a house top with the gable intact whirling through the air two hundred feet high. Heavy rain prevails here, but no damage was done.

## Warning to Navigators.

Lieut. Col. Chas. J. Allen, Corps of Engineers, has promulgated the following official notice:

On account of necessary operations for the defense of the Potomac River and the city of Washington, floating torpedoes have been placed in the channel. These torpedoes are dangerous to any vessels traveling at high speed and especially so to steamers. Until notice is otherwise given, all vessels should proceed very slowly and propeller wheels should not be turned between the River View wharf and the Government wharf at Sheridan Point. A small boat will be kept at the usual manner for the guidance of vessels traveling by daylight. Vessels should not undertake to pass at night through that part of the river, i.e., between River View wharf and Government wharf at Sheridan Point.

## GEN. BROOKE TO COMMAND

Will Direct the Movements of the Invading Army.

## GEN. MILES REMAINS BEHIND

It Is Generally Understood That the Commanding General Will Not Take the Field in Person—Thousands of Visitors at Camp Thomas Admire the Soldiers.

Chattanooga, April 24.—It was a beautiful day at Camp Thomas and thousands of people for miles around went out to see the regulars. Except that the new arrivals were busy putting up camp the troops "took it easy," loitering around and enjoying the admiration of the thousands of visitors.

In the afternoon religious services were conducted at the platform near Snodgrass Hill. The words of the chaplains were listened to by scores of the troops, and many were visibly affected by the references to the dangers that confront them and by the prayer that an all-wise God may keep watch over the American arms that are sent forth in the cause of justice and humanity.

Gen. Brooke was at his headquarters today, but except for conference with his aides little work was done. Tomorrow the work of the organization will be resumed with redoubled zeal. Gen. Brooke was reticent regarding the report that he would be in command of the invading army. One of his aides said, however, that the appointment of Gen. Brooke as corps commander means that he will be in supreme command in Cuba, as it is generally understood that Gen. Miles will not take the field in the island in person, but will direct the Army from Washington or some Southern point. The arrival of Lieut. Col. Weston from New York, chief of staff of the General, and the Brook's staff, is being anxiously awaited by the board of drummers and Chattanooga merchants.

Today's arrivals at the park included the Seventh and Twenty-fourth Infantry, Battery F of the Fifth Artillery and two troops of the First Cavalry.

The U. S. Cruiser *Harvard*.

New York, April 24.—The American line steamship *Harvard*, now the U. S. cruiser *Harvard* without a passenger on board and without a piece of cargo in her hold, came into port this morning. Within a day or two she will be ordered to sea.

The *Harvard* is a large ship, built in 1905, and is the largest of the *Harvard* class. She is commanded by Capt. Rodgers. Lieut. Kane, of the United States Marine Corps, who has been stationed at Boston, was ordered today to report to the *Harvard* tomorrow with twenty-five marines from the Brooklyn navy yard.

Before leaving Southampton the New York discharged a large number of members of the crew, including stewards, cooks and sailors. She brought 25 men. She got to her pier here at 3:30 o'clock this morning. On the opposite side of the pier was the *St. Louis*, the largest of the *Harvard* class, which was loaded by the New York reached the dock she was practically chartered by the United States, but there were no naval officers to take charge of her. The *Harvard* immediately began to take on stores for a cruise.

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